



House of Representatives

File No. 820

General Assembly

January Session, 2017

(Reprint of File No. 219)

House Bill No. 6623
As Amended by House Amendment
Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
June 1, 2017

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A WORKING GROUP TO STUDY HEALTH
INSURANCE PREMIUM RATE INCREASES AND DEVELOP
RECOMMENDATIONS TO MITIGATE SUCH INCREASES.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General
Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a working
2 group to study health insurance premium rate increases in this state
3 and develop recommendations to mitigate such increases. Such study
4 and recommendations shall include, but not be limited to, means
5 available to: (1) Respond to any pending or enacted legislation or order
6 that amends, modifies or repeals the Patient Protection and Affordable
7 Care Act, P.L. 111-148, as amended from time to time, or any portion
8 thereof; (2) encourage competition among health carriers in this state;
9 (3) foster the development of new and more affordable health
10 insurance policies for sale in this state; (4) reduce the financial impact
11 of health benefits mandated by the laws of this state; and (5) address
12 the drivers affecting the cost of health insurance policies and
13 prescription drugs.

14 (b) The working group shall consist of the following members:

15 (1) The chairpersons and ranking members of the joint standing
16 committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters
17 relating to insurance;

18 (2) One appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives;

19 (3) One appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate;

20 (4) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of
21 Representatives;

22 (5) One appointed by the Senate Republican president pro tempore;

23 (6) The Insurance Commissioner, or the commissioner's designee;

24 (7) One representative of the Connecticut Association of Health
25 Plans, appointed by the president of the association;

26 (8) One representative of the Pharmaceutical Research and
27 Manufacturers of America, appointed by its president and chief
28 executive officer;

29 (9) One representative of the Connecticut Business and Industry
30 Association, appointed by the president of the association, who shall
31 be the officer, manager or director of an employer doing business in
32 this state that sponsors a group health insurance policy for its active
33 employees; and

34 (10) Two individuals appointed by the Healthcare Advocate, one of
35 whom shall be insured under an individual health insurance policy
36 and one of whom shall be insured under a group health insurance
37 policy.

38 (c) Any member of the working group appointed under
39 subdivisions (1) to (5), inclusive, of subsection (b) of this section may
40 be a member of the General Assembly.

41 (d) All appointments to the working group shall be made not later

42 than thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy
43 shall be filled by the appointing authority.

44 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president
45 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the working
46 group from among the members of the working group. Such
47 chairpersons shall schedule the first meeting of the working group,
48 which shall be held not later than sixty days after the effective date of
49 this section.

50 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the
51 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance
52 shall serve as administrative staff of the working group.

53 (g) Not later than January 1, 2018, the working group shall submit a
54 report on its recommendations to the joint standing committee of the
55 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to insurance,
56 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general
57 statutes. The working group shall terminate on the date it submits such
58 report or January 1, 2018, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 18 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	Less than \$1,000

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill establishes a working group to study health insurance premium rate increases in this state and develop recommendations to mitigate such increases.

There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 in FY 18 to those agencies participating in the working group to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses, currently at 53.5 cents/mile.

House "A" clarifies the membership of the task force and does not alter the aforementioned fiscal note.

The Out Years

There is no ongoing fiscal impact because the working group terminates in FY 18.

OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6623 (as amended by House "A")

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SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 20 Nay 0 (03/09/2017)